

instant

# TALLINN

## inyourpocket

Winter-Spring 2008



### Introducing Tallinn

Tallinn is the sort of place that captures you. Different than any other capital in Europe, it has the feel of a bustling metropolis but without the major annoyances such as heavy traffic, smog or too many beggars in the streets. At the same time, it is a romantic and ancient city filled with fascinating stories and glorious architecture... all within walking distance.

Restaurants  
Bars  
Clubs  
Sights  
Hotels  
Transport

and a whole host of other useful information

This tiny .pdf guide has been written to start you off with a small taste of what the city has to offer and to help you plan your trip. The full version of the excellent, pocket-sized *Tallinn In Your Pocket* city guide is available at newspaper kiosks, hotels, bookshops and other locales throughout town. Pick up a copy for a mere 35kr (€2.25). Now you can even buy our guide online and have it shipped to your home. Simply go to <http://www.inyourpocket.com/clickandbuy> for more details.

### Customs

European alcoholics rejoice! When you leave Estonia headed to another EU country, you can take out as much booze as you can carry (or convince inspectors is for your personal use). Coming into Estonia from another EU country, each individual aged 18 and over may carry in duty-free 90 litres of wine and 110 litres of beer and 10 litres of hard alcohol (over 21%alc/vol), 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars and 1kg of pure tobacco. When leaving, beware of stricter tobacco restrictions if you're headed to the UK, Sweden or Finland. Relatively unlucky travellers from non-EU countries can carry in a measly 2 litres of wine (not exceeding €1.75EUR in combined value), 2 litres of beverages up to 21%alc/vol and 1 litre of hard alcohol; 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g pure tobacco. How much booze and smokes you can take home depends on your own country's restrictions. For more information, contact the Customs Department, Narva mnt. 9j, tel. 696 74 36/696 74 35, [info@customs.ee](mailto:info@customs.ee), [www.emta.ee](http://www.emta.ee).

### Money

The Estonian kroon (rhymes with 'tone') is pegged to the Euro at €1 to 15.65kr. Keep in mind that Euros are not legal currency here yet since Estonia won't join the common currency until at least 2008. Paper bills come in denominations of 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500kr. Some luggage lockers take 5kr coins, which are rare and have to be requested. 1kr coins are in common use, and the nearly worthless 10, 20 and 50 senti coins are an unavoidable nuisance. ATMs operating on international systems are ever present. Credit cards are easy to use in Tallinn - major hotels, most restaurants and a pretty much all downtown shops accept Visa, Mastercard and EC. American Express and Globus are less common. Banks offer cash advances on credit cards, usually for a fee. American Express and Thomas Cook travellers' cheques are exchangeable at most banks.

### Tallinn: The facts

#### Area and location

159.2 square kilometers in area, Tallinn sits on the north coast of Estonia, on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. Helsinki lies 84km to its north, Stockholm 379km to its east.

#### Population

Tallinn - 396,193  
Estonia - 1,342,000

#### Ethnic composition:

Estonians 67.9%, Russians 25.6%, Ukrainians 2.1%, Byelorussians 1.2%, Finns 0.9%, Others 2.3%

**Local time:** Estonia is in the Eastern European Time Zone (GMT+2hrs). Summer time (GMT+3hrs) is in effect from the last Sunday of March until the last Sunday of October.

**Other major cities in Estonia:** Tartu 101,000, Narva 67,000, Kohtla-Järve 48,000, Pärnu 46,000

### Estonia joins Schengen

As of December 21st 2007, Estonia belongs to the Schengen visa area, which now includes: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. It means that if you are travelling to Estonia from within the Schengen border control-free area, you will not be required to show any documentation when you arrive in Estonia, whether it be by ship, plane or by car, in fact you will not have to go through customs at all. Of course if you arrive in Estonia from outside the Schengen zone you will still be required to show your passport or EU identity card if applicable. Please note that **until March 31st 2008** you will still need to show your documentation when arriving by plane.

### Visas/Passports

Now that Estonia is in the European Union, EU citizens can enter Estonia with just a national ID card. All others need valid passports. You can enter Estonia visa-free and stay 90 days if you're a citizen of any EU country, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand, Israel, Argentina, South Korea and a number of other countries listed on the website below. All others, including South Africans, Russians, Byelorussians and Ukrainians do need a visa to come to Estonia. South Africans may enter Estonia if they hold a visa for Latvia or Lithuania. Anyone staying in Estonia for more than 90 days (180 days for UK citizens) needs either a residence permit or a visa, though there are certain very specific exceptions for EU citizens. For all the details, contact the consular department of the Foreign Ministry, tel. 631 74 40, or check their website, [www.vm.ee](http://www.vm.ee).

**inyourpocket**  
ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

#### Instant Tallinn

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As European capitals go, Tallinn is a remarkably easy-access city. The passenger port and train station are both within shouting distance of the Old Town/centre, while the airport and bus station are a quick, cheap 10 - 15 minute taxi ride away

### By plane

Tallinn's airport may be ultra-modern, but it's still so small you're never in danger of getting lost. Once past the controls, you'll find ATMs and currency exchange in the centre of the hall; car rental offices and toilets are downstairs.

**Getting to town** A taxi to the centre should cost roughly 125kr. The more frugal can take bus N°2 which leaves every 20 - 30 minutes from in front of the arrivals hall to the centre of town, i.e. the A. Laikmaa stop, next to the Viru Keskus shopping mall. A ticket costs 20kr from the driver, or 13kr from the R-kiosk inside the airport. The ride takes about 15 minutes.

### By ship

Most ferries and catamarans arrive at the Passenger Port (*reisisadam*), terminals A through D. Left Luggage and a helpful tourist information booth can be found in the main hall of terminal A. Exchange offices here are plentiful but rarely economical. ATMs are easy to find. Tallink ships use terminal D, located across the of water. It has similar services, but no tourist information. When spring hits, Lindaline's boats will arrive at the neighbouring Linnahall Speedboat Harbour. The currency exchange here has decent rates.

**Getting to town** You can just head for the spires of Old Town on foot, but a taxi from the Passenger Port should cover the short ride to town for 45 - 70kr.

### By bus

Buses arrive at the bus station (*bussijaam*), (H-4), just off the main highway from Tartu, but EuroLines and Ecolines passengers coming in from Riga or Vilnius should strongly consider hopping off at the much more central Viru väljak stop, rather than continuing on to the bus station itself. At the station, you'll find left luggage in the basement. The cash-only currency exchange takes all major currencies, including Russian roubles, but gives appallingly bad rates. The ATMs by the main entrance are probably a better bet.

**Getting to town** The city centre is just 1km away, down Juhkentali tänav. The easiest way to get into town is to catch buses N°17A, 23 and 23A, which leave from the stop near platform 1. These will take you to Vabaduse väljak (4th stop). Alternatively, you can cross nearby Tartu mnt. and take any tram to Old Town (also 4th stop). A taxi to Old Town should cost about 70kr.

### Tourist information

**Tourist Information Centre in Old Town C-2, Niguliste 2/Kulassepa 4, tel. 645 77 77, fax 645 77 78, www.tourism.tallinn.ee.**  
 ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun. [CC]



**Tourist Information Centre in Viru Keskus C-4, Viru väljak 4/6, tel. 610 15 57/610 15 58, fax 610 15 59, turisminfo@tallinnlv.ee, www.tourism.tallinn.ee.** A smaller version of the above, this one stays open later. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00. [CC]



### By car

Crossing the border from Latvia is fairly hassle-free now that the Baltics are in the EU, and queues move very swiftly. Getting over the border from Russia will take quite a bit longer. In both cases, be sure to bring your car's registration papers and a valid insurance policy, such as the international green card. You can also buy insurance right at the border station. For fares and regulations on bringing a car by ship from Finland or Sweden, contact the ferry companies in the 'Getting around' section of this guide.

### By train

The daily train from Moscow (Tallinn's only international connection) arrives at Tallinn's Balti Jaam (B-1), just a couple hundred metres from the walls of Old Town. Left luggage is in the back of the main hall, just off the breezeway that leads to the platforms. The exchange booth (across from left luggage) offers decent rates. ATMs are next to the front doors.

**Getting to town** Just cross the street at the underpass and walk up Nunne tänav into Old Town, or take trams N°1 or 2 from behind the station (heading to your right) three stops to the Mere pst. stop. Avoid the taxis that wait here.

### Public transport

The trams, buses and trolleybuses that make up the city's transportation system all use the same tickets. Buy a single-ride ticket, or *talong* from nearly any kiosk for 13kr (a book of ten tickets is only 90kr) or from the driver for 20kr. Once you're on board, punch validate it by sliding it into the green-topped ticket punch and pull the top towards you. Kiosks also sell 2hr (24kr), 24hr (55kr) and 72hr (100kr) tickets. See www.tak.ee for schedules.

### Taxis

**Krooni Takso, tel. 1212/638 11 11, takso@kroonitakso.ee, www.kroonitakso.ee.** 40kr + 7.50kr/km.  
**Linnataks, tel. 1242/644 24 42, linnataks@spin.ee, www.linnataks.ee.** 45kr + 9.40 - 11.80kr/km. Also provides taxis for disabled passengers.  
**Silver Takso, tel. 15 222/627 88 50, info@silver-takso.ee, www.silvertakso.ee.** 45kr + 7.80kr/km, maxi taxi 65kr + 11kr/km.  
**Tulika Takso, tel. 1200/612 00 00, takso@tulika.ee, www.tulikatakso.ee.** 45kr + 9.40-11.80kr/km  
**Vilking Takso, tel. 601 43 33/53 44 11 11, www.vilkingtakso.ee.** 30kr + 7kr/km, maxi taxi 60kr + 14kr/km.

There are loads of places to eat in Tallinn. The tourist boom has been both good and bad for the local dining scene. On one hand, it means more decent, high-quality restaurants and cafés opening up. It also means there are more tourist traps - Viru street and Town Hall Square are particularly notorious in this regard. For a bit of guidance in the budget area, we've listed the average price of a main course with most reviews (right after the opening hours). Service is never added to the bill, so it has become somewhat standard to tip about 10%, preferably in cash, for good service at restaurants.

### African

**African Kitchen B-3, Uus 34, tel. 644 25 55, fax 627 26 26, info@afrikanitchen.ee, www.afrikanitchen.ee.** This highly funky African-themed establishment is the place to go for affordable, exotic meals and a trendy, lounge-like atmosphere. Traditional and contemporary cuisine from the continent is served in hip, colourful surroundings. Lounge tables in the main room are a bit low, so reserve a spot in the cosier 'Cave Room' for more comfortable dining. Service slows considerably when crowded. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. (85kr). [P][F][M][S][CC]

### Balkan

**Admiral G-3, Lootsi 15, tel. 662 37 77, admiral@estpak.ee, www.aurlaev-admiral.ee.** A meal at Admiral, a smart restaurant built into an old stream ship, has to be of the most unforgettable dining experiences in town. The service and atmosphere here harken back to times when a luxury sea voyage was the height of class. While the impressive view of Tallinn harbour through the portholes is unquestionably 100% Estonian, the menu here is actually Balkan, with Serbian beef and other lamb and fish dishes from that region. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (170kr). [P][F][M][S][CC]

### Frugal lunches

Estonians are notoriously cautious spenders when it comes to weekday lunches, so most cafés and pubs offer a *päevapraad* (daily special) - typically a meat-and-potatoes ensemble for about 40kr. Aside from that, here are our favourite cheap lunch destinations:

**Café EAT C-3, Sauna 2, tel. 644 00 28, info@eat.ee, www.eat.ee.** After all one can never have too many dumpling and doughnut cafes. EAT has the feel of a student café and the prices to match, where else in old town can you get half a litre of cider for 25kr. All dumplings and doughnuts are sold by weight (10kr/100g), but they also offer a daily dish for 35kr. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. [CC]

**Eesti Maja D-1, Toompea 8 (next to the Occupation Museum), tel. 644 44 23, www.eestimaja.ee.** The brand new Eesti Maja location remains true to the original formula of good, no-nonsense Estonian food. Choose between several daily dishes, all for a very reasonable price. Soup 55kr Daily dish 55-65kr ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. [F][M]

**Marcelle (Romale Restaurant) D-2, Rüütli 28/30, tel. 646 49 00, romalorestoran@romale.ee, www.romale.ee.** Weekdays from 12:00 to 15:00, this Gypsy restaurant serves a daily soup for 16kr, and two sizes of a tasty, hot daily special for 24 and 36kr. Dessert costs 16kr. ▶ Open 12:00 - 15:00, 18:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 15:00, 18:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. [CC]

### Symbol key

[C] Old Town location	[D] Facilities for disabled
[X] No credit cards	[P] Parking available
[M] Live music	[T] Take away
[S] Smoking area	[C] Child friendly
[F] Fireplace	[D] Home delivery
[W] WiFi connection	

### Chinese

**China Inn C-3, Viru 9, tel. 648 45 85.** Located smack dab in the middle of Viru street, this 100% Chinese, cellar-restaurant has all the makings of a tourist trap, but isn't. The food is first rate, and certainly prepared from authentic recipes. Some of the dishes are a little on the expensive side, but you can still fill your belly and afford to have drinks with friends later. For those interested in an even more 'Chinese' experience, they also have live music on weekends. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. [C]

### Estonian

**Kuldse Notsu Kõrts C-2, Dunkri 8, tel. 628 65 67, fax 628 65 77, knk@schlossle-hotels.com, www.notsu.ee.** Heaven for pork-lovers, at the Golden Piglet Inn the cooks even put bacon in the bread! This country-style restaurant undeniably caters to the tourist crowd, but we really liked the bright, folk-art motif. And the menu is just as original, offering old witch's mushroom soup and something called 'big pig head cheese.' Despite the carnivorous theme, a good-sized selection of vegetarian dishes is available. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (170kr). [F][S][M][C][D][W]

**Vanaema Juures C-2, Rataskaevu 10/12, tel. 626 90 80/626 90 99, vanaema.juures@mail.ee.** True to its name, *Grandma's Place* treats its guests to a warm welcome and a cosy dining room filled with antiques. Take heart that there's no sign of the big, bad wolf here, though wild boar is occasionally on the menu. Elk roast is a regular feature and the lamb with bleu cheese comes highly recommended. Their friendly and attentive service makes you feel right at home. Reservations are a good idea for Friday and Saturday evenings. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00. (150kr). [C][F][M]

### Indian

**Elevant C-2/3, Vene 5, tel. 631 31 32, elevant@elevant.ee, www.elevant.ee.** This is an exceptional Old Town alternative to medieval theme restaurants. Beautiful décor from the entry foyer's antique wrought iron staircase to the sparse earthy sheik furnishings make it a place to linger over your meal. The sophisticated East meets West style also extends to the menu, offering a wide selection of innovative, carefully prepared dishes. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (165kr). [S][C][F][M][W]

**Maharaja C-2, Raekoja plats 13, tel. 644 43 67, hantikgr@online.ee, maharaja.ee.** Of all the Indian restaurants in Tallinn, this old favourite on Town Hall Square is the most formal and the most involved - someone even greets you at the door and fusses over you until you're seated. The food here is absolutely amazing, so if you don't mind the fact that an order of rice here costs the same as a full meal elsewhere, it's a fine choice. Every detail here is authentic, from the large likeness of Vishnu down to the mango chutney. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (215kr). [C][F]

## International

**Ö B-4, Mere pst. 6e, tel. 661 61 50, www.restoran-o.ee.** Despite being named for one of Estonia's hardest-to-pronounce vowels, Ö is well worth seeking out. Here tie-clad lunchers discuss business in an atmosphere of stylish, charcoal-coloured furniture, with dove-wing chandeliers overhead adding an artistic touch. The menu is inventive and modern with seafood leanings. The complimentary canapés were a nice touch, though we found the trout in pesto a touch oily. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 13:00 - 22:00. (270kr). [P]

**Ribe C-3, Vene 7, tel. 631 30 84, www.ribe.ee.** We couldn't quite figure out what category this fine eatery should fall under, but that actually doesn't matter as the food and overall experience were excellent. The intriguing menu items are all artistically presented and the interior design is just pretty as punch. We found the portions a little on the slim side, nonetheless the ambience and friendly service made each of the small bites special. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon, Sun. (160kr). [P]

**Stravinsky Väike-Karja 1, tel. 620 92 60/504 85 07, www.stravinsky.ee.** Like something out of the pages of a design magazine, the interior of this restaurant named for the famed composer will leave you with a good taste in your mouth. The portions are unfortunately smallish, however the presentation is très chic and the service we experienced here was second to none. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (190kr). [P]

**Teatri Puhvet D-4, Teatri väljak 3, tel. 699 05 90, www.puhvet.ee.** Designed with theatrical inspiration, this restaurant, attached to a café of the same name, serves up fresh and creative dishes. Unlike most others in its class, the portions found here won't leave you hungry and the prices won't break you either. Occasional live music on weekends. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Mon 08:00 - 22:00, Sat 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 20:00. (120kr). [P]

**Wana Tunnel D-2, Harju 6, tel. 631 06 31, amicanaturunel@hot.ee.** This is definitely not one for the claustrophobic. The novelty at 'Old Tunnel' is that this lounge-style restaurant is built inside a narrow, 14th-century water tunnel that runs underneath the Harju business centre. A recent remodelling job has extended the dining area a bit, and added some modern and classy touches, such as chirping birds at the entrance. A selection of succulent international-type grill items dominate the menu. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:30. Closed Sun. (175kr). [P]

**Zebra Café G-3, Narva mnt. 7, tel. 610 92 30, www.zebracafe.ee.** One of a new breed of high-quality, casual gourmet restaurants that have recently blossomed in Tallinn. Zebra offers à la carte dining with the option of a slightly cheaper cafeteria set-up, complete with freshly-baked pastries, desserts and a salad bar, all in one very slick, cool room. The service is excellent, and prices, while they might be a bit higher than elsewhere, are more than justified by the wonderful cooking. Save room for the chocolate-raspberry cheesecake. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (170kr).



Instant Tallinn

## Pizza

**Americana D-2, Müürivahe 2, tel. 646 42 65/644 88 37, pizza@americana.ee, www.americana.ee.** This colourful, little corner pizzeria dishes up nearly 60 varieties of thick, tasty pizza that will keep your stomach full for days. Delivery 45kr. ▶ Open 11:30 - 22:30. [P]

**Pizza Grande C/D-2/3, Väike-Karja 6, tel. 641 87 18, info@pizzagrande.ee, www.pizzagrande.ee.** Grande's signboard proudly displays the flag of that great pizza-making nation - Norway. Huh? Anyhow, the pizza in this cellar café is fairly tasty, and comes in three sizes. Be advised that the large size is actually extra-large ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. [P]

**Pizzeria al Sole C-3, Viru 8, tel. 644 88 52, alsole@viruinn.ee, www.viruinn.ee.** The classy, little pizzeria attached to the Viru Inn's al Sole restaurant uses an authentic, wood-burning oven, and the result is fresh and tasty. Pizzas run 80 - 140kr. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00. [P]

## Italian

**Bocca B-3, Olevimägi 9, tel. 611 72 90, bocca@bocca.ee, www.bocca.ee.** A smart, slick establishment where you'd expect to run into super-chic members of Tallinn's A-list, or maybe a supermodel or two. Bocca delivers formal, professional service and an inventive array of pastas and fillets (filets), all under the watchful eye of a creative Italian chef. The attached lounge bar is a swank place for a post meal cognac. Make reservations on weekends. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (200kr). [P]

**Il Patio C-3, Aia 3, tel. 627 12 44, ilpatio@rosinter.ee, www.rosinter.ee.** Connected to T.G.I. Friday's (it's next door and run by the same company), this restaurant goes in for the casual, cool modernity of an open-plan layout, with cooks working away in the little kitchen behind the counter. It's quality place to stop. The salads, pastas, pizzas and mains are top notch, even if you, like us, have to wait a while for them to arrive. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (120kr). [P]

**Da Vinci/Café Leonardo C-3, Aia 7, tel. 641 61 77, info@davincifood.ee, www.davincifood.ee.** This small restaurant's bright, ochre walls and cheerful oil paintings give it a somewhat refined look without crossing over into formality. Menu items are certainly inventive, with white fish in zucchini pastry and cannelloni stuffed with duck on offer. The pizza (75 - 125kr) is the real treasure here though - it has all the right accessories and a good amount of spice. Head to the café side for a more casual, café-like experience. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. (140kr). [P]

## Japanese

**Silk C-2, Kullassepa 4, tel. 648 46 25, silk@silk.ee, www.silk.ee.** Just off the square, this sleek and trendy sushi spot has made a big splash with those who are willing to spend. All varieties of the dish are available - maki sushi, baked sushi, spicy sushi, etc. Eight-piece maki dishes generally run 25 - 95kr, while larger assortments go from 230 - 490kr. Other Japanese dishes are also available in the tasteful, black-lined restaurant. And for dessert? Green tea- or tempura-flavoured ice cream. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. Also at G-3/4, Narva mnt. 15, tel. 661 60 99. Open 09:00 - 23:00, Sat 10:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 23:00. (140kr). [P]

## Medieval

**Olde Hansa C-2, Vana turg 1, tel. 627 90 20, reserve@oldehansa.ee, www.oldehansa.com.** Many frequent travelers would say that you haven't really been to Tallinn unless you've visited Olde Hansa. This mecca of medievalism in the heart of Old Town doesn't just serve historically authentic fare made from carefully-researched recipes, it provides guests with a whole experience using a combination of candlelight, waiters and waitresses in period costume and medieval background music. Chamber musicians round out the ambience every night of the week. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (155kr). [P]

**Peppersack C-2/3, Viru 2, tel. 646 68 00, fax 644 09 47, peppersack@peppersack.ee, www.peppersack.ee.** Peppersack makes wonderful use of the 15th-century building it calls home - both the vast main hall and the more intimate rooms further back exude comfy medieval-ness. The menu is European-based and fun-loving, with clever choices like headless man's mutton stew. The fresh, hot rolls are a nice touch. Every evening at 20:00 there's a theatrical swordfight, followed Thursdays through Saturdays by Oriental dancing. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. (170kr). [P]

## Russian

**Klafira B-3, Vene 4, tel. 667 51 44, info@klafira.ee, www.klafira.ee.** If it's an aristocratic Russian experience you're after, Klafira, strategically located on Vene tänav (Russian Street) is the perfect place. Beautifully decorated to take you back to the wealth of 19th-century Russia, the cosy, old style atmosphere and friendly service more than make up for the pricey food. All the favourite Russian delights can be found on the menu and a few more exotic ones for adventurous diners. Live Russian music will keep you entertained. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (180kr). [P]

**Troika C-2, Raekoja plats 15, tel. 627 62 45, fax 631 40 91, restoran@troika.ee, www.troika.ee.** One of Tallinn's must-see cellar restaurants, Troika wows its clientele with a cosy, old-style Russian décor and a singer who belts out folk songs from a balcony from time to time. (When choosing your table, you may want to consider just how close you want to be to this spectacle.) But the best thing about this place is the food - excellent *bliny* and *pelmeni* as well as a selection of traditional main courses. Great service. Book ahead. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:30. (175kr). [P]

## Thai

**Bangkok E-2, Roosikrantsi 15, tel. 646 26 13, www.bangkok.ee.** You wouldn't know at first glance (the door is weirdly placed), but this little, cellar restaurant is a great find - stylishly modern, comfy and offering great food. A long list of spicy Thai curries and noodle dishes makes up the menu, which leans towards the pricey side. The spring rolls were the best we've had in years. You may have to wait a bit for your food. Reserve in evenings. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (190kr). [P]

**Villa Thai G-4, J. Vilmsi 6, tel. 641 93 47, fax 641 93 48, villathai@villathai.ee, www.villathai.ee.** A well-established favourite in the Kadriorg district just outside the city centre, the Villa is a quiet, comfortable affair. Sit with the ceramic elephants and drapery of the dining room or head to the bamboo-filled atrium with its gurgling fountain. Interestingly, the menu goes well beyond Thailand, encompassing Vietnamese, Indonesian, Malaysian and Tandoor dishes. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (150kr). [P]

## Jewish

**Moses G-4, Karu 16 (Beit Bella Synagogue), tel. 662 61 02, info@moses.ee, www.moses.ee.** Nestled into the lower level of Tallinn's only synagogue, this kosher establishment is a little sparse albeit somehow romantic. Prepared according to ancient laws, the cuisine is aromatic and healthy with more than a few vegetarian-friendly items available. They also have a delicious wine selection consisting mainly of Israeli vintages. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat 17:00 - 22:00. Closed Fri. [P]

## Upscale

**Stenhus C-3, Pühavaimu 13/15, tel. 699 77 80, schlossie@schlossie-hotels.com, www.stenhus.ee.** The Schössle hotel's venerated cellar restaurant is an elegant refuge decorated with colourful swaths of cloth that bring to mind a fairytale castle. Everything on the menu is exquisitely prepared by a team of award-winning chefs, making it well worth the price. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:30. (350kr). [P]

**Vertigo H-3, Rävåla pst. 4, tel. 666 34 56, info@vertigo.ee, www.vertigo.ee.** Fresh, gourmet dining combines with spectacular views of downtown skyscrapers in this cool, 9th-floor restaurant. Part of it is an ultra-smart brasserie and lounge that serves up things like chanterelle risotto and Moroccan fish sets along with grill and wok dishes. The tuna clubber was great. A more formal 'fine dining' section offers elaborate dinner selections. Try the mojito cheesecake for dessert. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sat 16:00 - 24:00, Sun 16:00 - 22:00. (300kr). [P]

## Cafés

**Maiasmokk C-2, Pikk 16, tel. 646 40 66.** Tallinn's oldest café, the Sweet Tooth has been serving marzipan and other treats since it opened way back in 1864. Drop in for elaborate cakes, cheap coffee, and an amazing, pre-war interior. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. [P]

**Quam Quam C-2, Lai 6, tel. 645 90 17, fax 645 90 32, info@quamquam.ee, www.quamquam.ee.** By day this chic café fills the with the aroma of sauté wafting in from the kitchen and multi-lingual the murmur of customers waiting for their soups and paninis. The style here, including the signature chandeliers, also makes it a decent place to meet up for an evening glass of wine. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. [P]

**Chocolaterie C-3, Vene 6 (in the courtyard), tel. 641 80 61.** People squeeze into this quaint, frilly, 19th-century style café for two reasons: One is that it has its own master chocolatier who cooks up truffles from scratch, and the other is the unbeatably cosy atmosphere. Be warned that seats fill up fast. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. [P]

**Kehrwieder C-2, Saikang 1, www.kehrwieder.ee.** Probably the best café in town for ambience, Kehrwieder is a snug warren of cave-like stone rooms filled with quirky, old furniture. Excellent gourmet coffees and Town Hall Square location are other pluses, but be warned it can get crowded here. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. [P]

One could get the impression that Estonians are hopeless party animals. For a town its size, Tallinn has a suspiciously high number of bars and nightclubs. But for foreign visitors, this just means there's more variety on offer. This section is designed to help you pick the nightspot that suits your mood, whatever that may be.

## Bars & Pubs

**Cafe VS E-2, Pärnu mnt. 28, tel. 627 26 27, fax 627 26 26, info@cafevs.ee, www.cafevs.ee.** You will never be alone in this groovy well-established favourite bar of locals and expats alike, which interestingly doubles as an Indian restaurant. There's always a vibrant ambience which, depending on the time of day, will have you chilling on the comfy lounges or grooving when the DJs are in the house later in the evening. Head to the more intimate room downstairs for a bit of privacy. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Mon 10:00 - 24:00, Fri 10:00 - 02:00, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. [P] [G] [A] [M]

**Hell Hunt B-3, Pikk 39, tel. 681 83 33, hellhunt@hellhunt.ee, www.hellhunt.ee.** If you just want to grab a beer with friends and avoid the tourist scene, Hell Hunt (The Gentle Wolf) is probably your best bet. An open, comfortable drinking establishment with a strong sense of style, it pulls in the locals by the droves with its no-nonsense atmosphere. While here, try the pub's own brand of light and dark beers (brewed in Saaremaa). Good, cheap food too. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. [G] [M]

**Molly Malone's C-2, Mündl 2, tel. 631 30 16, molly.malones@baarid.ee, www.baarid.ee.** Right on Town Hall Square, this roomy Irish pub has become a popular meeting spot, particularly for older, male tourists and business travellers. In an effort to draw a younger crowd though, it has now been given a sports-bar makeover, with added TVs, etc. Live bands get the place buzzing on weekends, but you can find at least a small crowd here just about every night of the week. ▶ Open 09:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 04:00. [F] [G] [M]

**Nimega Baar (The Pub with a Name) D-2, Suur-Karja 13, tel. 620 92 99, nimega.baar@baarid.ee, www.baarid.ee.** One of the liveliest places on Old Town's main bar street, Nimega pulls in the punters with its permanent 2-for-1 cocktails offer and general air of boy-meets-girl. On weekends, the little dance area in back sees plenty of action. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 04:00, Sun 12:00 - 02:00. [G] [M]

**Nimeta Baar (The Pub with No Name) C/D-3, Suur-Karja 4, tel. 641 15 15, nimetabaar@hotmail.ee, www.nimetabaar.ee.** In case the flags hanging out front don't give it away, Nimeta is the quintessential expat bar. At times it looks like something between a British stag party hangout and an expat boys' club, but a good number of locals and backpacker types make it more interesting, especially on weekends when DJs get people into the dancing mood. A good place to watch sports and/or eat pub food. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 04:00. [F] [G] [M]

**St. Patrick's C/D-2, Suur-Karja 8, tel. 641 81 73, stpatrickshot.ee, www.patrickshot.ee.** The name and décor may be Irish, but don't be fooled. The crowds in each of the three St. Patrick's pubs are just about as Estonian as they come. For atmosphere, we prefer the oldest on Vana-Posti. All three offer decent, cheap food, and every 4th Saku Original is always free. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 04:00. Also at: **D-2, Vana-Posti 7, tel. 631 48 01. E-2, Pärnu mnt. 20.** [M]

## Trendy, lounge-type places

**Basso C-2, Pikk 13, tel. 641 93 12, www.basso.ee.** Dark, elegant and jazzy, Basso is something between a swank café and a hip lounge, and has become a popular nighttime haunt of the town's discerning drinkers. Drop in for a glass of chardonnay or a cocktail. Because it plays a café role during the day, a decent selection of food is usually available too. Live jazz Thursday evenings. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Mon, Sun 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 03:00. [F] [G] [M]

**Kaheksa D-2, Vana-Posti 8 (entrance from Müürivahe), tel. 627 47 70, kaheksa@bdg.ee.** A sophisticated establishment, Kaheksa is popular with Tallinn's young, social elite who can often be caught taking advantage of the lounge's boxing-ring layout to compare fashion notes. Strong hints of the tropics (latticed panels, palm leaves) give it the right touch of class. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Wed, Thu 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 04:00. [G] [M]

**Popular C-3, Vana-Viru 6, tel. 614 15 65, www.popular.ee.** Though it's a bit smaller than the other fashionable lounges, Popular still manages to fill its little seats and sofas with a respectable volume of teenaged trend monkeys. They seem to be pulled in by the availability of tobacco-filled water pipes, as well as the DJs who play progressive music on weekends. ▶ Open 09:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 04:00. [G] [M]

**Stereo Lounge D-2, Harju 6, tel. 631 05 49, www.stereolounge.ee.** One big room with an all-white interior and hoards of foreign males. Some visitors truly hate this place, finding the design sterile and off-putting, but Brits in particular seem to be attracted like moths to a searchlight. ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00, Fri 08:00 - 03:00, Sat 11:00 - 03:00, Sun 11:00 - 01:00. [G] [M]

## Artsy/Underground

**Depeche Mode C-2, Nunne 4, tel. 644 23 50, edmfk.cafe.ee/dmbaar.** Vilnius has its Frank Zappa statue, so it's only fair that Tallinn has this bar dedicated to Depeche Mode. For normal humans, this is just a friendly dive bar stuffed with fan memorabilia. But if you're a true DM fan, this is all you ever wanted, all you ever needed. ▶ Open 12:00 - 04:00. [F] [G]

**Juuksur B-3, Pikk 43/Vaimu 1.** Currently very popular with tourists, Juuksur is a stone cellar full of mismatched furniture and art nerds. The bar's name means 'hairstylist', so naturally some of the chairs have old-style salon drying helmets hovering above them. ▶ Open 17:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 02:00. [F] [G] [M]

**Levist väljas B-3, Olevimägi 12, tel. 50 77 372.** Tallinn's most grotty, smokey, seedy and all-around diviest dive bar. Students, Rastafarians and skinheads all congregate in this medieval cellar bar known for cheap drinks and broken furniture. Levist is usually people's last stop of the night after drinking heavily elsewhere. ▶ Open 15:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 15:00 - 06:00. [G]

**Rockstar's E-2, Tatar 6, tel. 660 49 15, www.tanav.ee.** A cellar den for mostly-teenaged fans of hard rock music. Judging by the décor, you might think you've entered the ninth circle of hell. You'll feel out of place if you wear a beige jumper with a teddy bear on the front. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 06:00. Closed Sun. Admission 25-100kr. [F]



## Clubs

**360° D-3, Müürivahe 22, tel. 631 33 60, club360@club360.ee, www.club360.ee.** Beyond the gum-chewing doorman lies this fairly recent addition to the Old Town club scene - a tiny, basement club that seems to pull in gaggles of Finnish nerd girls plus a few cool trendoids who are wondering how the hell they ended up here. The music is pop and the décor is standard modern. Anyone still curious should come by on a Wednesday or Sunday night, when entrance is free. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00, Sun 22:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 50-100kr. [F] [G]

**BonBon B-4, Mere pst. 6e, tel. 661 60 80, info@bonbon.ee, www.bonbon.ee.** Often packed to the gills, the trendy BonBon is where you're most likely to find Tallinn's beautiful set. It's arguably the town's most exclusive club, thanks to a higher than average ticket price and a clubcard-holders-only regime at the door when it's crowded. The establishment sports a classically decadent look, with huge chandeliers and a portrait of Bacchus watching over the dance floor. Italians seem to like it, if that tells you anything. ▶ Open 23:00 - late. Closed Mon, Tue, Thu, Sun. Admission 65 - 130kr. Special events 150kr+. [F] [P]

**Bonnie & Clyde H-3, Liivalaia 33, Olümpia hotel, tel. 631 53 33, www.revalhotels.com.** Don't be put off by the fact that it's a hotel nightclub, the Reval Hotel Olümpia's nightclub has re-emerged as a Friday night destination. This one actually has a strong following and is likely to be packed on any given Friday night. The clientele here tends to be more mature than the teens that hang out elsewhere, and the music is always something you can dance to. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 21:00 - 05:00. Admission 50kr, Fri-Sat 100kr, free for hotel guests. [F] [P]

**Hollywood D-2, Vana-Posti 8, tel. 627 47 70, bdg@bdg.ee, www.clubhollywood.ee.** If there's one club in Tallinn that's guaranteed to be jumping, it's Hollywood, the mixing bowl for tourists and Tallinn's young (repeat, young) party crowd. The dance floor features three large overhead video screens and raised platforms where scantily-clad go-go dancers jiggle to the beat. Wednesday night is the infamous Ladies' Night - free entrance for ladies, hence a wall-to-wall meat market for the lads. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. Admission 50 - 100kr, special events 100kr+. [F] [P]

## Live music

**Kolumbus Krisostomus C-3, Viru 24, 2nd floor, tel. 56 156 924, www.kolumbus.ee.** Avoid it when it's filled with tourist groups doing karaoke (yeeesh!), but this beer-hall style place is also where some of the more interesting local bands come to perform. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 01:00. [F] [G] [M]

**Rock Cafe H-4, Tartu mnt. 80d, 3rd floor, www.rockcafe.ee.** Built into an old factory building just past the city's bus station, this minimalist, two-story rock club is decidedly raw and industrial. Live acts - mainly rock but sometimes blues or funk - are booked every weekend, and the place boasts the best sound system of any club in Estonia. ▶ Open , Thu 21:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. Admission 50 - 100kr. [F]

**Von Krahl C-2, Rataskaevu 10/12, tel. 626 90 96, www.vonkrahl.ee.** This down-to-earth pub attached to a local theatre is where Tallinn's alternative bands come to play, and naturally the crowd tends towards students, punks and artsy types. Come by during the day for good, cheap pub food. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. Admission 45-90kr. [F] [G] [M]

**Marat H-4, Tartu mnt. 63, tel. 603 32 93, info@klubimarat.ee, www.klubimarat.ee.** If you're the type who feels a little threatened by teeny-boppers jumping around to loud banging music, spun by DJs with names like 'Tranz-Monkey', this club will make you feel right at home. Situated in an old clothing factory, which manufactured 'stylish' Soviet-era undergarments for Estonians way back in the day, Marat may be the coolest club we have ever been to, but it is something different for Tallinn. And who knows, you might even get it on with someone your own age. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. Age restriction 21+. Admission 100-150kr. [M]

**Parlament H-3, Tartu mnt. 17, tel. 666 29 00, fax 666 29 01, clubparlament@clubparlament.com, www.clubparlament.com.** It's like a slice of a Roman coliseum, meaning there's three levels from which you can watch bleached nineteen-year-olds in tight jeans jiggling around on the sticky dance floor. They'd look older if they weren't chewing gum. Overall, this is an enormous and popular club that frequently hosts bands and events. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 21:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. Admission 75 - 100kr, free for ladies until 23:00. [F]

**Seduction C-4, Viru väljak 4 (in Viru Centre), tel. 610 14 30, fax 610 14 31, www.seductiondiscotheque.com.** This two-level, chic and shiny, black and gold-themed discotheque under the Viru shopping centre gets surprisingly packed (in a good way) with young local couples and a smattering of tourists. The cutting-edge music spun by top DJs might range from hip-hop to house, depending on the night. Head downstairs for a more loungey experience. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. Fri-Sat age restriction 21+. Admission 50 - 125kr. [F] [P] [G] [M]

**Venus C-4, Vana-Viru 14, tel. 641 81 84, venus@venusclub.ee, www.venusclub.ee.** Rows of classical cherub statues added to an Arabian desert motif may give the impression of a palace decorator gone mad, but the overriding mood at Venus is of serious partying and flirting by a mixed Russian and Estonian crowd. Special events - many with an erotic edge - happen almost weekly. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. Admission 150kr, discount for ladies. [G]

Dating back as far as the 13th century, the old section of Tallinn is what keeps most visitors occupied during their stay. The winding, cobbled streets of the medieval capital take you past half-hidden lanes, courtyards, spired churches and old, merchant houses. For centuries, what's now the Old Town has been divided into two distinct parts: Toompea Hill, which was home to the gentry that lorded over the countryside, and Lower Town, which was a separate political entity with rights as an autonomous town.

## Toompea Hill

Climb Pikk jalg and you'll find yourself on Castle Square (Lossi plats), smack-dab between the seat of the Estonian government at Toompea Castle and the 19th-century symbol of the Tsar's power in Estonia, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. You are standing at the birthplace of Tallinn.

**View platforms** The Kohtuotsa and Patkuli view platforms are usually the first place that tourists want to see when they visit Tallinn. From here, sweeping views of the town, its red-tiled roofs, its towers, its walls and all of its charm open up. Get your camera ready.



**Toompea Castle D-1, Lossi plats 1.** Built on the spot where the ancient Estonians' wooden fortress stood before the 1219 Danish invasion, Tallinn's castle served for seven centuries as the seat of power for the nation's foreign masters. Now it houses the Riigikogu, Estonia's parliament. On one corner of the castle you can see Pikk Hermann tower with the blue, black and white tricolour flag waving above it. The pink section you see in front is actually a baroque structure added in the 18th Century. For a more castle-like view of this building, head behind it, down the opposite side of the hill. ▶ Admission only with guided tour.

**Alexander Nevsky Cathedral C/D-1, Lossi plats 10, tel./fax 644 34 84, nevsky@hot.ee, www.hot.ee/nsobor.** Toompea's dominating landmark is the Russian Orthodox cathedral named for the duke who attacked southeastern Estonia and Pskov in the early 13th century. Tsar Alexander III ordered the cathedral designed in 1894 by St. Petersburg master Mikhail Preobrazhensky and it was completed in 1900. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00. Admission free.

**Dome Church (Toomkirik) C-1, Toomkooll 6, tel./fax 644 41 40, tallinn.toom@eek.ee, www.eek.ee/tallinna.toom.** Also called St. Mary's Church, what might be the oldest church in Estonia was founded in 1219 by the first wave of Danish forces. The Gothic exterior dates to the 14th century, but the interior was rebuilt after the 1684 fire. The Baroque pulpit (1686) and organ loft (1780) are worth a look. Please be considerate and visit after the Sunday service. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon. Admission free.

## Lower Town

Lower Town, the larger part of medieval Tallinn (or Reval as it was called back then), became a member of the Hanseatic League at the end of the 13th century. Goods from around the world came in through the port and were traded on the market on Town Hall Square. Reval operated autonomously from the rest of the Estonian territories right up until Tsarist Russian times.

**Town Hall Square (Raekoja Plats) C/D-2.** As a medieval market and a modern meeting place, Town Hall Square has been the heart of city life for eight centuries. With the Town Hall at your back, you can survey some of the most impressive examples of Gothic architecture in Tallinn. Hunt for a circular stone in the centre of the square marked with a compass rose. From here, if you stretch, you can see the tops Tallinn's five most famous spires.

**Town Hall (Raekoda) D-2, Raekoja plats 1, tel. 645 79 00, raekoda@tallinnlv.ee, veeb.tallinn.ee/raekoda.** The jewel in the crown of Old Town is unquestionably the Town Hall, the centre of civic rule from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century. Though a previous town hall stood here at least as far back as 1322, the imposing Gothic building of today dates to 1404. Old Thomas, the weather vane who symbolises Tallinn, has been keeping watch since 1530. ▶ Interior open by prior arrangement only (call ahead). Admission 40kr.

**Town Hall Pharmacy (Raeapteek) C-2, Raekoja plats 11, tel. 631 48 60, fax 631 48 61, raeapt@hot.ee.** One of the oldest continuously running pharmacies in Europe is on Town Hall Square. No one knows exactly when it opened, but records show that the Raeapteek was already on its third owner in 1422. In Medieval times patients could buy mummy juice and burnt bees for treatment, and healthy folks could even drop in for a glass of spiced wine. Keeping up with the times, the pharmacy sells the usual aspirin and condoms, but part of the shop is also a museum, displaying old medical instruments and other curiosities. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00; Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun. Admission free.

**Holy Spirit Church (Püha Vaimu kirik) C-2/3, Pühavaimu 2, tel. 644 14 87, www.eek.ee/tallinna.puhavaimu.** This awe-inspiring, 13th-century church adjacent Town Hall Square sports an impressive Baroque tower as well as an ornate, outdoor clock that's said to be one of the most photographed objects in Tallinn. The real treasure however is the intricate, wood-carved interior, which includes Baroque pews and a Renaissance pulpit (the oldest in Tallinn). Founded by the Order of the Holy Spirit, it was the most active in providing alms to the sick and poor, and it was here that the first sermons were given in Estonian after the Reformation. ▶ Open 09:30 - 17:30, Sat 10:00 - 18:30. Closed Sun. Services in Estonian Sun 10:00, in Finnish 13:00, in English 15:00. Classical music hour, Mon 18:00. Admission 10kr.



## Protected city

Find out why Tallinn survived numerous attacks, keeping its citizens safe and allowing them to remain one of Northern Europe's most prosperous cities.

**Town Fortifications B-2, Gümnaasium 3, tel. 644 98 67.** With 46 towers, medieval Tallinn was known as 'one of the most fortified burghs in all Northern Europe'. Today 1.85km of the original city wall and 20 towers survive. Three of the oldest, Nunne, Sauna and Kuldjala, are open to the public. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00. Sat, Sun 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Wed, Thu. Admission 10kr.



**Dominican Monastery (Dominiiklaste klooster) C-3, Vene 16, tel. 644 46 06/51 554 89, info@kloostri.ee, www.kloostri.ee.** One of Tallinn's oldest existing buildings is this monastery founded in 1246. The part of the monastery administered by the museum includes the courtyard and surrounding passageways, where fascinating 15th- and 16th-century stone carvings are on display. To see the inner rooms, visit the Clastrum, listed next. ▶ In winter open only for groups, with advanced booking. ▶ Admission 90kr.

**Dominican Monastery Clastrum C-3, Müürlvahe 33, tel. 511 25 36, mauritanum@edu.ee, www.mauritanum.edu.ee.** The monastery's inner chambers such as the monk's dormitory, priory, library, etc, can only be visited as part of an organised tour. One of the most interesting spots may be the downstairs room that houses the 'energy pillar' purportedly the source of a mysterious power. ▶ Open only by special arrangement this time of year.

**Niguliste Church - Museum C-2, Niguliste 3, tel. 631 43 30/tours 644 99 03, fax 631 43 27, niguliste@ekm.ee, www.ekm.ee.** Tallinn's most famous work of art, Bertt Notke's spooky, 15th-century masterpiece Dance Macabre, has its home in this 13th-century Gothic church-turned art museum. Destroyed during World War II and rebuilt during Soviet times, the church now houses a fascinating collection of medieval religious art, with altars from the 15th and 16th centuries, a collection of Baroque and Renaissance chandeliers, and a 'silver chamber.' The church is also known for its acoustics - organ concerts are held here every Saturday and Sunday at 16:00. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 35kr.

**St. Olaf's Church (Oleviste Kirik) B-3, Pikk 48, tel. 641 22 41, fax 641 22 16, info@oleviste.ee, www.oleviste.ee.** St. Olaf's 124m spire is a Tallinn landmark, and some say that it was once the tallest building in Europe. The first mention of the church dates to 1267, but the interior dates to 1840 and reflects that era's Historicist bent. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:00. Admission free.

## Museums

**Estonian History Museum - The Great Guild Hall (Eesti Ajaloomuseum) C-2, Pikk 17, tel. 641 16 30, fax 644 34 46, post@eam.ee, www.eam.ee.** Housed in the Great Guild Hall, the museum's exhibitions cover Estonia's earliest history up through the 18th century, with text in Estonian, English and Russian. The building itself (built 1407 - 1410) is significant as the home of Tallinn's union of wealthy merchants. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Wed. Admission 25kr.

**Estonian Maritime Museum (Meremuuseum) A-3, Fat Margaret Tower, Pikk 70, tel. 641 14 08, fax 641 14 14, info@meremuuseum.ee, www.meremuuseum.ee.** Centuries of seafaring history, including models, charts and other artifacts, are displayed in this multi-storied museum housed in the 16th-century Fat Margaret cannon tower. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 35kr.

**Tallinn City Museum (Linnamuuseum) C-3, Vene 17, tel. 644 65 53, fax 644 15 74, lmuuseum@online.ee, www.linnamuuseum.ee.** Far and away the most modern and complete introduction to Tallinn. Appropriately built into a 14th-century merchant house, the City Museum houses elaborate displays, with English captions, demonstrating various aspects of Tallinn life through the ages. ▶ Open 10:30 - 18:00. Closed Tue. Admission 35kr.

**Museum of Estonian Photography C-2, City Prison, Raekoja tänav 4/6, tel. 644 65 53, www.linnamuuseum.ee.** Back in the 14th century this building behind the Town Hall served as the town prison (as a visit to the cellar will show). Now it houses an extensive exhibition on Estonian photography, mainly devoted to the 1840 - 1940 period. Drop in to check out the recreated studio and antique cameras on display. ▶ Open 10:30 - 18:00. Closed Wed. Admission 15kr.

**The Museum of Occupation and of the Fight for Freedom D/E-1, Toompea 8, tel. 668 02 50, fax 668 02 51, muuseum@okupatsioon.ee, www.okupatsioon.ee.** In the period from 1940 to 1991, Estonia was occupied briefly by Nazi Germany and then for four and a half decades by the USSR. The history of this difficult period comes to life in this modern museum on the edge of Old Town. Audio-visual displays and art installations add life to the museum's artefacts and texts. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 20kr.

## Kadriorg

If there's one 'must - see' area outside of Old Town, it's Kadriorg, the city's prestigious residential and park district.

**Kadriorg Palace G-5, Weizenbergi 37, tel. 606 64 00, fax 606 64 01, muuseum@kadriorg.ekm.ee, www.ekm.ee.** Italian master architect Niccolò Michetti designed this magnificent, Northern Baroque palace in 1718 at the request of Russian Tsar Peter the Great, who intended to use it as a summer residence for the royal family. The palace is now home to the Kadriorg Art Museum. In addition to perusing the nation's collection of foreign art, visitors get to see the mind-bogglingly ornate Great Hall, and the room upstairs that served as president's office in the 1930s. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 55kr.

